REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Office Action dated September 7, 2004, regarding the above-referenced patent application. Currently, claims 1-38 are pending in the application, wherein claims 1-38 have been rejected by the Examiner. Claims 1, 19, and 30 have been amended with this paper. Support for the amendments may be found throughout the drawings, for example. Therefore, no new matter has been added with the amendments. Favorable consideration of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11, 14, 16-22, 25, 27-30, 32 and 35-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by DiCaprio et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,419,685 (hereinafter DiCaprio). The Examiner asserts that DiCaprio disclose an angioplasty catheter as claimed comprising an inner tube (12), an outer tube (13), a balloon (20), an inflation lumen (23), and a support block (16) having a plurality of fins. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Applicant at least disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of the corrugated/ribbed stent securement device (16) as being a support block having a plurality of fins. Applicant does not concede the correctness of this rejection. Nonetheless, in order to more clearly describe the support block in expediting prosecution, Applicant has amended claims 1, 19 and 30 to state that the support block has a plurality of longitudinal fins.

Applicant asserts that DiCaprio at least fails to teach a support block having a plurality of longitudinal fins. As can be seen in Figs. 1-10, the stent securement device (16) of DiCaprio includes corrugated ribs formed around the circumference of the tube in an accordion fashion. (See column 8, lines 57-58). The corrugated ribs are substantially transverse to the longitudinal axis of the inner tubular member. This is not what is claimed in the current invention. A support block having a plurality of longitudinal fins, such as is claimed, may provide support to a catheter and balloon, while maintaining fluid communication between an inflation lumen and a balloon, for example. Applicant asserts that DiCaprio at least fails to teach a support block having a plurality of longitudinal fins. The structure asserted by the Examiner from DiCaprio would render the balloon catheter inoperable if such member were used as a support block as claimed by Applicant.

For at least this reason, Applicant asserts that the claims of the current application are distinguishable over DiCaprio. Applicant asserts that claims 1-11, 14, 16-22, 25, 27-30, 32 and 35-37 are presently in condition for allowance.

Claims 12, 13, 15, 23, 24, 26, 31, 33 and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DiCaprio et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,419,685 (hereinafter DiCaprio). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the cited reference must teach or suggest each and every limitation of the claimed invention. As noted above, DiCaprio fails to teach each element of the invention as claimed in claims 1, 19 and 30. Namely, DiCaprio at least fails to teach a support block having a plurality of longitudinal fins. Applicant asserts that claims 12, 13, 15, 23, 24, 26, 31, 33 and 34 depend from one of claims 1, 19 or 30 and add significant additional elements; therefore, claims 12, 13, 15, 23, 24, 26, 31, 33 and 34 are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is submitted that all pending claims, namely claims 1-38, are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is anticipated. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

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By his Attorney,

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